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New York, New York Public Library, Spencer Collection, NYPL Spencer 020

Description: ff. ii + 197 + ii - 18th century Italian brown calf with gold tooling. - Written for Cardinal Giovanni d'Aragona (1456-1485); may have passed after his death to his father, King Ferdinand I of Naples. Robert S. Holford Collection. Sir George L. Holford collection. Purchased by Rosenbach. Obtained for Spencer in 1929. - De Ricci, 1339. J.J.G. Alexander, ed. The Painted Page(1994) 106-8. A.C. de la Mare, "Florentine Scribes of Cardinal Giovanni of Aragon," Il Libro e il Testo(Urbino 1982) 275. La Biblioteca reale di Napoli(Valencia 1998). - Jonathan J. G. Alexander, James H. Marrow and Lucy Freeman Sandler, The Splendor of the Word: Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts at the New York Public Library(London / Turnhout: The New York Public Library / Harvey Miller Publishers, 2005) n. 83.

Acknowledgments: - We thank Prof. Jonathan J. G. Alexander for his extensive work towards the present description of this manuscript.

Number of Parts: 1 - *Number of Images Available:* 6

Direct Link: http://ds.lib.berkeley.edu/NYPLSpencer020_42

Language: Latin *Country:* Italy *Century:* 15th

Part 1: ff. 1-197v

Description: - Parchment - 339 x 231 mm - 29 long lines, ruled in drypoint. Prickmarks and catchwords/quire signatures visible. Gatherings of ten except for the eighth, which has 8 folios, and the twentieth (and final) which has 9 folios.

Country: Italy

Cardinal point:

Region: Lazio

City: Rome

Assigned Date: s. $XV^{4/4}$

Searchable Date Range: 1475 - 1499

Dated by scribe: No

Inscribed Date:

Document: No

Number of Scribes: ;2

Scribe(s): Bartolomeo SanvitoAntonio Sinibaldi

Script: Humanistic; rustic capitals

Artist(s): Gaspare da Padova (Master of the Vatican Homer)

Figurative Decoration: Ornate frontispiece with images of the author, classical figures, etc. Some initials contain human or grotesque figures.

Other Decoration: 4-line to 6-line gold, red and blue initials on elaborately decorated fields. Some border designs. 1-line red, gold and blue initials.

Notes: Produced ca. 1480-85. Sanvito, who copied the epigraphic capitals for the headings of the books and the rubrics at the beginnings of the chapters (and possibly the small chapter initials) worked with Gaspare da Padova in Rome during the 1460s-1480s. Latin

Number of Texts: 1

Text 1: ff. 1-195v

Author: Valerius Maximus

Title: Facta et Dicta Memorabilia

Title: Valerii Maximi Factorum ac Dictorum Memorabilium Liber I ad Tiberium Caesarem.

Language(s): Latin

Incipit: Urbis Rome exterarumque gentium facta simul ac dicta memoratu digna quae apud alios latius diffusa sunt quam ut breviter cognosci possint

Explicit: ut nove nuptae ante ianuam mariti interrogate quae nam vocarentur Gaias esse se dicerent. Finis.

Notes: Greek used on f. 59.



f. 1 Portrait of author writing with various codices beside him. Border with arms, devices and motto of Cardinal Giovanni d'Aragona (with the cardinal's hat overpainted by a crown); allegorical portraits of the four Virtues, each paired with a Roman emperor.

View image

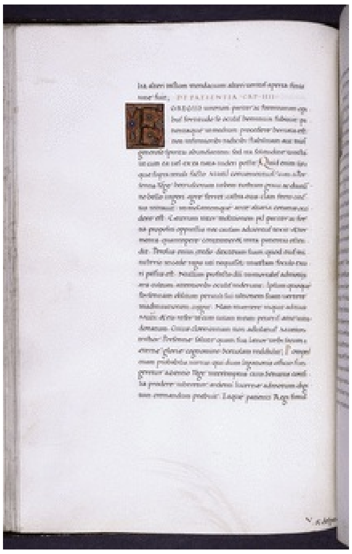
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f. 1v Faceted or prismatic initial; Renaissance "candelabra" style border design against a shredded purple ground.

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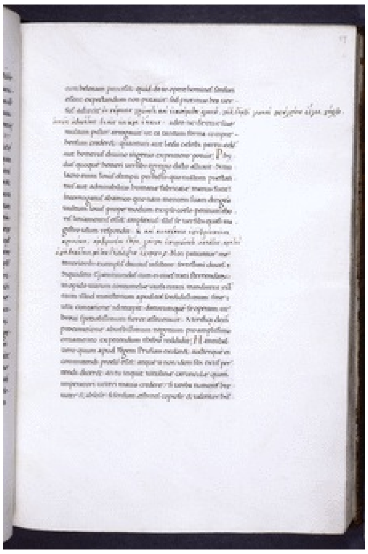
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f. 50v Secondary nitial, catchword placed horizontally on the far right of the page, and quire number in roman numeral.

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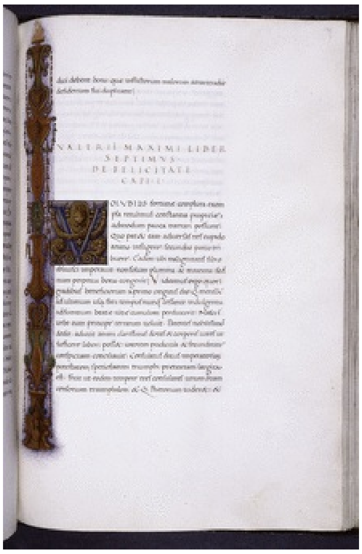
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f. 59 Greek quotations added by a less formal hand in appositely left spaces.

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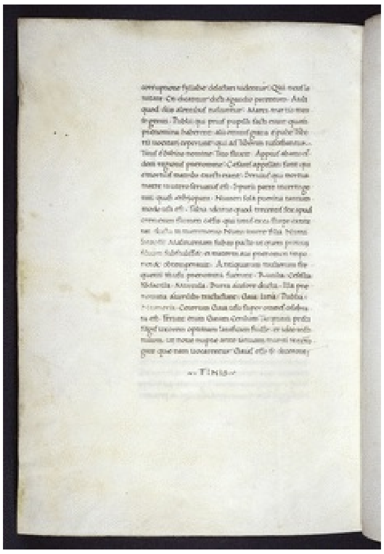
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f. 131 Opening of book 7, with 6-line initial with human face; Renaissance border design against shredded purple ground.

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f. 195v Explicit of text.

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